

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION  
DIVISIONS OF DRINKING WATER AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
AUGUST 20, 2019**

**ITEM 3**

**SUBJECT**

IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

**DISCUSSION**

The State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) is responsible for protecting the drinking water supplies of all Californians served by public water systems. California faces numerous challenges in ensuring that all of its citizens has access to safe drinking water, especially those in small disadvantaged (and often rural) communities. Although the State has made significant progress in closing the gaps that have led to some communities having unsafe drinking water, significant issues still remain. Over 1 million Californians across the state still lack access to safe drinking water at their homes, schools, and businesses. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Governor, the Legislature and community advocates, there is now a new reliable funding source to address drinking water challenges in communities which drinking water problems that have thus far proved challenging to address via other funding sources. The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Program (SADW) will now provide comprehensive and sustainable support to ensure provision of safe drinking water for communities that don't have it.

The near-term goal of the SADW is to ensure every Californian has safe water to drink. Near-term solutions include temporary connections to safe sources, point-of-use systems, drilling wells into uncontaminated aquifers, and trucking water directly to communities. The long-term goal is to ensure that all drinking water systems can sustainably and affordably provide safe drinking water to everyone they serve. Long-term solutions that will lead to safe and self-sufficient systems include funding system upgrades, consolidation and regionalization (i.e. linking smaller systems into larger ones), and technical and managerial capacity building.

**POLICY ISSUE**

None –Informational Item

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None –Informational Item

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None –Informational Item

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None –Informational Item